

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 17 and 18 have been amended. Claims 1, 4, 9 and 20 are independent. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Amendment

Support for the amendments to claims 17 and 18 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 18, line 20 - page 19, line 23. Thus, no new matter is added.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Dependent claims 17 and 18 are patentable at least due to their dependence on allowable independent claim 9 and for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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